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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 004432

SIPDIS

COMSIXTHFLT //N2//
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ3/ECJ4/ECJ5/ECPOLAD//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 04 ZAGREB 004432

SIPDIS

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEU
USVIENNA ALSO FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/5/05

TAGS:

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES - DETENTION CAMPS IN SANSKI
MOST AND PRIJEDOR; SANSKI MOST AND KLJUC TODAY

1. (U) CLASSIFIED BY ROBERT P. FINN, CHARGE, 1.5 (D).

SUMMARY: POW/CIVILIAN EXCHANGE

2. (U) ZAGREB AND SARAJEVO POLOFFS TRAVELED TO SANSKI MOST AND KLJUC OCTOBER 31 - NOVEMBER 2 TO INTERVIEW MUSLIMS RELEASED OCTOBER 30 IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE B-H ARMY (ABH) AND BOSNIAN SERB ARMY (BSA). 461 PEOPLE CROSSED SIDES AT THE CONFRONTATION LINE IN KOPRIVNA AT 1000 ON OCTOBER 30, SIX KILOMETERS NORTH OF SANSKI MOST. THE BSA RELEASED TWENTY-ONE (21) ABH V CORPS SOLDIERS AND THREE HUNDRED AND THREE (303) MALE MUSLIM CIVILIANS. THE ABH RELEASED TWENTY-ONE (21) BSA LST KRAJINA CORPS SOLDIERS, ONE HUNDRED FOURTEEN (114) CROATIAN SERB (ARSK) SOLDIERS, AND TWO MALE CIVILIANS.
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POLOFFS INTERVIEWED 13 MUSLIM CIVILIANS AND ONE V CORPS SOLDIER (SEPTEL), AND VISITED ONE SITE IN SANSKI MOST WHERE THE CIVILIANS WERE INTERNED BEFORE THE TOWN FELL TO THE ABH. THEY PROVIDED NAMES OF MISSING AND DEAD WHICH HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO ICRC ZAGREB. THERE WAS ONE REPORT OF THREE BURNED BODIES IN AN OVEN AT THE CERAMICS FACTORY AND SEVERAL REPORTS OF OTHER COLLECTIVE KILLINGS. THE EX-DETAINEES SPENT ONE NIGHT IN A COLLECTIVE CENTER IN KLJUC, AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING THE ABLE-BODIED MEN WERE RELEASED TO THEIR HOMES. TWELVE MEN WERE STILL IN THE HOSPITAL IN KLJUC SUFFERING FROM INJURIES INCURRED DURING THEIR DETENTION, BUT THE COMMANDER OF THE MILITARY HOSPITAL WOULD NOT ALLOW POLOFF TO INTERVIEW THEM. ZAGREB POLOFF ALSO MET WITH VII CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL ALAGIC, KLJUC MAYOR ASIM EGRIC, SANSKI MOST MAYOR MIRZET KARABEG, AND SEPARATELY WITH HIS ADVISER, SUAD KURBEGOVIC. END SUMMARY.

SANAKERAM FACTORY

3. (U) POLOFFS INTERVIEWED 12 MUSLIM CIVILIANS AS A GROUP UNDER LESS THAN IDEAL CONDITIONS AT THE SANSKI MOST CITY HALL. ABH VII CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL ALAGIC AND SANSKI MOST MAYOR MIRZET KARABEG PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERVIEW. THE 12 DESCRIBED THEIR TRAUMATIC ORDEAL FROM SEPTEMBER 21 UNTIL OCTOBER 30 IN THE HANDS OF THE BOSNIAN SERBS. ALL 303 MUSLIM CIVILIANS RELEASED HAD LIVED IN SANSKI MOST AND THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES, AND HAD BEEN DETAINED AS A GROUP DURING THIS PERIOD. THEY SAID BETWEEN
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350-400 TEENAGE BOYS AND MEN WERE HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 21 UNTIL OCTOBER 10 AT THE SANAKERAM CERAMICS FACTORY IN DONJI KAMENGRAD, 4 KM WEST OF SANSKI MOST. ON OCTOBER 10, PRIOR TO THE FALL OF SANSKI MOST, THEY WERE MOVED TO AN AUTO SERVICE SHOP (AUTOPREVOZ) IN THE URIJE DISTRICT OF PRIJEDOR, WHERE THEY WERE HELD UNTIL OCTOBER 30. THE MEN SAID THAT 45 OTHERS WERE LEFT BEHIND AT AUTOPREVOZ WHEN THEY WERE RELEASED.

4. (U) THE MEN REPORTED THAT BOSNIAN SERB SOLDIERS, ARKAN PARAMILITARIES AND REGULAR POLICE ROUNDED THEM UP FROM THEIR HOMES ON SEPTEMBER 21 AND DETAINED THEM AT SANAKERAM. UNTIL THAT DATE, THE MEN HAD BEEN UNDER FORCED WORK OBLIGATION FOR THREE YEARS, MOSTLY DIGGING TRENCHES AND AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY WORK. ALMOST FOUR HUNDRED WERE HELD IN THE KITCHEN AND CAFETERIA OF THE FACTORY.

THE ROOM HAD NO VENTILATION OR HYGIENE FACILITIES. THEY RECEIVED ONE OR TWO SLICES OF BREAD PER DAY AND SOMETIMES A SMALL CUP OF BEAN SOUP. LITTLE WATER WAS AVAILABLE. INITIALLY, SEVERAL DAYS PASSED BEFORE THE GROUP RECEIVED ITS FIRST "MEAL." ONE 58-YEAR OLD MAN REPORTED LOSING OVER 30 KILOS (65 LBS.) DURING THE PERIOD. MEN SLEPT IN EVERY CORNER, INCLUDING ON THE KITCHEN STOVE, UNDER TABLES, AND IN THE SMALL TOILET. NO ONE WASHED OR CHANGED

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INFO LOG-00 AID-00 AMAD-01 CIAE-00 SMEC-00 OASY-00 ANHR-01
SRPP-00 EB-01 OIGO-01 FBIE-00 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-00 LAB-01 L-01 ADS-00 M-00 NSAE-00 OIC-02
OMB-01 PA-01 PM-00 PRS-01 P-00 SP-00 SSO-00
SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 PRM-10
PRME-01 PRMC-01 DRL-09 G-00
(ONY) /000W

-----FD6014 061721Z /38
O 061537Z NOV 95
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7911
INFO AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE//DO/LG/XOX/IN/POLAD//
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GE//J3/J4/J5/POLAD//
AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA
JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J-5PMA/J21//
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
USLO SKOPJE
DIA WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA/ISP//
NSC WASHDC
USOFFICE PROXIMITY TALKS
USMISSION GENEVA
HQ JTF PP NAPLES IT//CA/POLAD//
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CLOTHES DURING THE SIX WEEK DETENTION.

15. (U) GUARDS CONTINUALLY HARASSED AND TORTURED THE PRISONERS. THE 12 REPORTED CONSTANT NIGHTLY BEATINGS. MEN WERE CALLED OUT BY NAME OR CHOSEN AT RANDOM AND TIED TO A CHAIR IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING. THEY WERE BEATEN WITH POLICE BATONS, RIFLES, PISTOLS AND HEAVY BOOTS. SOMETIMES GROUPS OF ABOUT 10 WERE CALLED OUT AND BEATEN. THE MEN SAID THAT TOWARDS THE END OF THEIR DETENTION, ONE SUCH GROUP OF TWELVE WAS BADLY BEATEN, THEN WAS TAKEN OUT BEHIND THE BUILDING AND SHOT AT CLOSE RANGE. ONLY ONE MAN SURVIVED. (WE WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE THIS INDIVIDUAL.) THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED NEAR THE END OF THEIR DETENTION AT SANAKERAM. IN ANOTHER INCIDENT, A GUARD FIRED THROUGH A GLASS WINDOW INTO THE ROOM. THE BULLET RICOCHETED OFF THE WALL AND HIT ONE MAN IN THE HEAD. HE DIED INSTANTLY. (LATER, IN THE FACTORY, THE TEAM SAW THE

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RICOCHET MARK AND BLOOD STAIN.)

16. (U) THE MEN SAID GUARDS CAME INTO THE ROOM ONLY TO CALL PEOPLE OUT. HOWEVER, GUARDS CONSTANTLY STOOD VIGIL AROUND THE BUILDING AND WERE SEEN BY THE MEN THROUGH THE WINDOWS THAT LINED THREE SIDES OF THE CAFETERIA. ONE MAN SAID HE HAD COUNTED 11 GUARDS OUTSIDE, WORKING IN FOUR SHIFTS PER DAY. THE MEN BELIEVED THE GUARDS BELONGED TO ARKAN'S BRIGADE BECAUSE THEY WORE RED BERETS. ONE PRISONER SAID ABOUT 20 OF THEM HAD SERBIAN ACCENTS. OTHERS SPOKE WITH A LOCAL ACCENT. THE MAYOR SAID THAT THREE BURNED BODIES HAD BEEN FOUND IN AN INDUSTRIAL OVEN IN THE FACTORY WHEN IT WAS LIBERATED.

17. (U) AT THE SANAKERAM FACILITY, A CRIPPLED EX-
DETAINEE, ABOUT 40, WHO HAD RETURNED TO SEARCH FOR A COAT
HE HAD LEFT BEHIND, SHOWED US THE ROOM WHERE HE WAS HELD.
A POTENT FETID SMELL OVERWHELMED THE GROUP ON ENTERING THE
CAFETERIA. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT MANY PEOPLE HAD LIVED
THERE FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD IN TERRIBLE CONDITIONS.
BLOOD AND EXCREMENT STAINS REMAINED ON THE WALLS AND
FLOORS OF THE CAFETERIA, THE ENTRANCE, AND OTHER SMALL
OFFICES. OUR IMPROMPTU GUIDE POINTED OUT POSITIONS WHERE
GUARDS HAD STOOD WATCH OVER THE BUILDING AND THE PLACES OF
THE FIRING SQUAD AS THEY SHOT THE 11 PRISONERS. HE
IDENTIFIED A TORN CHAIR IN THE FRONT ENTRANCE TO WHICH
PRISONERS HAD BEEN TIED AND BEATEN.

AUTOPREVOZ, PRIJEDOR

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18. (U) ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 10, THE MEN WERE TAKEN
OUT OF THE BUILDING AND FORCED TO MARCH ON THE ROAD AND
THROUGH THE FOREST TOWARD PRIJEDOR. AT DZEVAR FIELD, THEY
SAT DOWN WITH THEIR HEADS LOWERED AND A SOLDIER EXCLAIMED
THAT THEY WOULD ALL BE KILLED. ONE DOCTOR AMONG THE
MUSLIMS THEN STEPPED OUT AND TOOK ASIDE A SOLDIER WHO
APPEARED TO BE IN COMMAND. THE SOLDIERS MADE THE MEN SIT
IN THE SHADOWS, UNDER TREES. AFTER ONE HOUR, THE GROUP
WAS BROUGHT WATER. THEY STARTED MARCHING AGAIN, AND
REACHED THE VILLAGE OF RASAVCI, OVER FIFTEEN KM FROM THE
FACTORY, BEFORE TRUCKS ARRIVED TO TAKE THEM TO THEIR
DESTINATION.

19. (U) THE GROUP WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE WAREHOUSE OF AN
AUTO TRANSPORT SERVICE (AUTOPREVOZ) IN THE URIJE DISTRICT
OF NORTH PRIJEDOR. FOR FIVE DAYS THEY RECEIVED ONLY
WATER. NO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION VISITED THEM. WHEN
VISITORS ARRIVED, THE SOLDIERS HID THE PRISONERS IN THE
WOODS FOR HOURS UNTIL THE STRANGERS LEFT. CONDITIONS AT
THIS CENTER WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE IN SANSKI MOST. FOOD
WAS IRREGULAR. BEATINGS OCCURRED REGULARLY. ONE GUARD
TOLD THE PRISONERS ON ARRIVAL, "I'VE GOT THE PLEASURE TO
BEAT YOU ALL TONIGHT." FOUR GUARDS STOOD INSIDE THE

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ACTION EUR-01

INFO	LOG-00	AID-00	AMAD-01	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	ANHR-01
	SRPP-00	EB-01	OIGO-01	FBIE-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
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	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-00	PRS-01	P-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	SS-00	STR-01	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	PRM-10
	PRME-01	PRMC-01	DRL-09	G-00			

(ONY) /000W

-----FD6015 061721Z /38
O 061537Z NOV 95
FM AMEMBASSY ZAGREB
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7912
INFO AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO
JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
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BUILDING WHERE THEY WERE HOUSED, AND OTHERS REMAINED
OUTSIDE. ON OCTOBER 29, BUSES DROVE THEM SOUTH AND THEY
WERE TOLD THEY WOULD BE EXCHANGED. THIS EXCHANGE WAS
UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THEY RETURNED TO PRIJEDOR. THE
FOLLOWING DAY, THE EXCHANGE SUCCEEDED.

SECRET CENSUS OF SANSKI MOST

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110. (C) MAYOR KARABEG SHOWED POLOFFS A CAREFULLY
COMPILED LIST OF NAMES AND NUMBERS FOR EACH VILLAGE IN THE
AREA OF SANSKI MOST. HE SAID THESE LISTS WERE COMPILED BY
VELID SELMAN (PROTECT), A SCHOOLTEACHER WHO HAD SECRETLY
TAKEN A COMPLETE CENSUS OF THE TOWN SINCE MAY. HE WAS
HELPED BY THE MERHAMET HUMANITARIAN AID DISTRIBUTION
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CENTERS. SANSKI MOST HELD 3704 PEOPLE AT THE END OF MAY.
ABOUT TWO HUNDRED PEOPLE HAD LEFT DURING THE SUMMER,
BUYING THEIR WAY TO CROATIA OR OTHER COUNTRIES. THERE
WERE 893 MEN BETWEEN 16 AND 60. HE SAID 410 WERE TAKEN TO
SANAKERAM, 60 TO A CAMP IN SEHOVACA, AND 105 HELD IN
BETONIRKA, A CEMENT FACTORY. OTHERS LEFT ON CONVOYS. WE
HAVE INFORMED THE ICRC OF THE EXISTENCE OF THIS DOCUMENT.

SANSKI MOST TODAY

111. (U) SUAD KURBEGOVIC, ADVISER TO THE SANSKI MOST
MAYOR, TOLD ZAGREB POLOFF OCTOBER 31 THAT OVER 200 MUSLIMS
AND 70-100 CROATS WERE KILLED DURING THE SERB WITHDRAWAL
FROM SANSKI MOST. HE REPORTED FIRING SQUAD KILLINGS IN
THE VILLAGES OF TRNOVA AND SEJKOVACA: 8-15 PEOPLE DIED IN
EACH INSTANCE. SEVENTEEN BUSES HAVE RETURNED DISPLACED
PEOPLE TO THEIR HOMES FROM ZENICA IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.
200-300 CROATS STILL LIVE IN SANSKI MOST, ALTHOUGH VERY
FEW SERBS REMAINED. POLOFF VISITED THE EMPTY SOCCER
STADIUM IN TOWN, A SITE WHERE PROFESSOR KOLJEVIC CLAIMED
MUSLIMS WERE INTERNING 2000 SERBS. TOWN OFFICIALS HAD
TRANSFORMED THE STADIUM INTO A CAR IMPOUND LOT FOR SERB
VEHICLES. A FEW HORSES GRAZED THE PLENTIFUL GREEN GRASS,
AN INDICATION THAT 2000 PEOPLE COULD NOT RECENTLY HAVE
CAMPED THERE.

112. (U) THE TOWN APPEARED MOSTLY INTACT, ALTHOUGH THE
TEAM DROVE THROUGH MANY RECENTLY DESTROYED SERB VILLAGES
AND THREE-YEAR-OLD DESTROYED MUSLIM VILLAGES. WATER WAS
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AVAILABLE AS WAS MINIMAL ELECTRICITY. TELEPHONE SERVICE
WAS NON-EXISTENT. THE TOWN HAD BEEN UNABLE TO HOOK UP TO
THE ELECTRICITY GRID IN JAJCE BECAUSE OF PROBLEMS WITH THE
HVO, SO KURBEGOVIC SAID ALTERNATE PLANS WERE BEING MADE TO
RECEIVE ELECTRICITY FROM BIHAC. ON NOVEMBER 1, ABH VII
CORPS, BASED IN TRAVNIK, MOVED ITS REGIONAL COMMAND CENTER
FROM KLJUC TO SANSKI MOST AS THE LATTER WAS TRANSFERRED
FROM V CORPS'S TO VII CORPS'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR)
THAT DAY. GENERAL ALAGIC WAS SKEPTICAL OF EFFORTS THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS MAKING TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN
RIGHTS CONDITIONS AND WAR CRIMES, EVEN THOSE COMMITTED BY
THE SERBS. INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISTS IN THE AREA ALSO HAD
DIFFICULTY DEALING WITH ALAGIC. ALAGIC WAS DETAINED AND
TORTURED BY SERBS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE WAR, AND REMAINS
VERY BITTER NOT ONLY AT Q
ICRC AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL GROUPS WHO, HE FEELS, DID
NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE TO PREVENT THE MISTREATMENT OF THOSE
HELD. ON NOVEMBER 2, BETWEEN BOSANSKO GRAHOVO AND LIVNO,
THE EMBASSY TEAM PASSED 8-10 TRAVNIK-REGISTERED BUSES AND
ABH MILITARY-REGISTERED TRUCKS HEADED NORTH, FILLED WITH
UNIFORMED MEN.

KLJUC TODAY

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SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00 PMB-00 PRM-10
PRME-01 PRMC-01 DRL-09 G-00
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113. (U) ON OCTOBER 31, KLJUC MAYOR ASIM EGRIC TOLD
POLOFF THAT KLJUC NOW HAD A POPULATION OF 4000, MOSTLY
RETURNEES FROM THE TOWN, BUT ALSO DISPLACED PERSONS FROM
PRIJEDOR AND PRNJAVOR. ABOUT 670 MUSLIMS HAD STAYED
DURING THE SERB OCCUPATION. HE SAID ONLY 10 ELDERLY SERBS
LIVED IN THE TOWN CURRENTLY. EGRIC PROVIDED POLOFF WITH
TWENTY NAMES OF MEN LAST SEEN DIGGING TRENCHES IN KLJUC IN
AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WHICH HE HAD NOT YET REPORTED MISSING
TO THE ICRC. WE PASSED THESE NAMES TO ICRC ZAGREB. THE
TOWN HAD SUBMITTED TO THE ICRC 570 NAMES OF KLJUC
RESIDENTS MISSING SINCE 1992. KLJUC HAD SIMILAR
INFRASTRUCTURE PROBLEMS TO SANSKI MOST, AND WAS ABLE TO
GENERATE MINIMAL ELECTRICIT
Y THROUGH OIL GENERATORS.

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114. (U) SARAJEVO MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

FINN

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